



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **INS joins forces with Community Organizations to Dispel Myths of A New Amnesty**

**Chicago, IL** – The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) along with Catholic Charities, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (L.U.L.A.C.) of Cicero held a press conference today to announce to the immigrant community of Chicago that an amnesty under immigration law has not been passed by the Congress of the United States.

Recently, rumors have surfaced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has implemented another amnesty similar to the one passed by the United States Congress in 1986. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 provided the opportunity for aliens who had resided continuously in the United States illegally prior to 1982, and had proof of being contributing members of society and free from serious criminal violations of U.S. laws, to become legal residents of this country. The legalization period, or amnesty, started in May of 1987 and ended in May of 1988. Over 150,000 people in Chicago applied for this benefit provided by law.

“I am concerned that many people may be misled by immigration fraud practitioners into believing that an amnesty period has been implemented,” said Brian R. Perryman, Chicago District Director of the INS. “It is very important for people to understand that only the INS can implement such a benefit after it has been passed into law by the Congress of the United States.”

The INS urges the immigrant community of Chicago to avail themselves of the Immigration services provided by accredited Community Based Organizations, such as the ones that have joined the INS today for this important announcement, in order to acquire accurate information about new immigration laws and existing policies. The INS also has a toll free customer service number, 800-375-5283, where bilingual operators (English/Spanish) are available to answer general immigration questions. The INS website also provides up-to-date and comprehensive information about INS policies and procedures.

Victims of Immigration fraud should contact the U.S. Attorney fraud hotline at 312-886-2030. The INS is committed to working with Community Based Organizations in order to disseminate current and accurate immigration information to the ethnic communities it serves.

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